Department of Archeology in Karnataka- 100 years Achievement

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Places Mentioned:

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Summary:

The article reviews the achievements of the Dept. of Archaeology in Karnataka, on the occasion of its centenary. In the field of Indological Studies, the Department's achievements are enviable and the Department was lucky in having Directors like B.L. Rice, R. Narasimhachar, R. Shama Shastry and M.H. Krishna. The Department was founded in 1985 and even earlier Col.Mackenzie, Major Dixon and B.L. Rice, out of their own personal efforts had done some spade work which served as a background. Rice was put in charge of the new Department together with, his regular responsibility of Director of Public Instruction. In 1890, he was made full time Director of the new Dept. Till 1906, he published 12 volumes of Epigraphia Carnatica with 9000 inscriptions.

The ASI's Inscriptionum Indicarum series were later named Epigraphia Indica, an appropriate name. R. Narasimhachar who was Rice's assistant became Director with independent charge in 1910, and under his aegis highly useful Mysore Archaeological Reports were brought out annually and revised and new volumes of Epigraphia Indica were published. He brought out Karanataka Kavicharite in three volumes and works on Hoysala art.

In 1922 R. Shama Shastry became the Director and the office was shifted from Bangalore to Mysore. He published Artha Shastra and S.I.I., vol X. Dr. M. H. Krishna who became the Director in 1928 was also a Professor in the University. He paid more attentions to excavations and Chandravalli and Brahmagiri excavations were of his time. Some of the manuscripts of Dr. Krishna remain unpublished till now. After his demise in 1947, his successors in the post were L. Narasimhachar, K. Narayana lyengar (1950), Prof. K.A. Nilakantha Shastry (1954) and Dr. M. Sheshadri (1956). The Museums were transferred to the Dept. in 1960. In 1972, the Department was separated from the University under whose control it was placed in 1954, and Dr. M. S. Nagaraja Rao was the full-time Director. He conducted excavations at Hallur and Tadakanahalli.

Now from 1983, Dr. A. Sundara is the Director. Hampi Excavation started by Dr. Nagaraja Rao in 1979 are being continued. Repairing Of Shivappa Nayaka's palace at Shimoga and conservation of Aralaguppe temple are some of the other programs under progress.